Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A transgenic plant comprising a plant transformation vector comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes ~~or is complementary to a sequence that encodes~~ a PRDT1 polypeptide comprising:

a) the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:2;

b) an amino acid sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2~~,~~; or

c) an ortholog ~~thereof~~of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the ortholog has at least 60% sequence identity over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:2, comprises a SANT domain, and has DNA-binding activity, and wherein said transgenic plant has increased resistance to pathogens and/or increased drought tolerance relative to control plants.

2. (Original) The transgenic plant of claim 1 wherein the transformation vector comprises a constitutive promoter that controls expression of the PRDT1 polypeptide or ortholog.

3. (Currently amended) The transgenic plant of claim 1 wherein the transformation vector comprises a pathogen-inducible promoter that controls expression of the PRDT1 polypeptide ~~or ortholog~~.

4. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The transgenic plant of claim 1 ~~which encodes~~wherein ~~a PRDT1~~the ortholog of SEQ ID NO:2 comprises ~~comprising~~ an amino acid sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NOs:3-17.

5. (Currently amended) A method of producing increased pathogen resistance in a plant, said method comprising:

a) introducing into progenitor cells of the plant a plant transformation vector comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes ~~or is complementary to a sequence that encodes~~ a PRDT1 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth as SEQ ID NO:2; an amino acid sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID

NO:2~~,~~; or an ortholog thereof, wherein the ortholog has at least 60% sequence identity over the entire length of SEQ ID NO: 2, comprises a SANT domain, and has DNA-binding activity, and

b) growing the transformed progenitor cells to produce a transgenic plant, wherein said ~~poly~~nucleotide sequence is expressed, and said transgenic plant exhibits increased resistance to pathogens relative to control plants.

6. (Currently amended) A transformed plant obtained by ~~a~~ the method of claim 5.

7. (Currently amended) A transformed plant part obtained from ~~a~~ the plant according to claim 6.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of generating ~~a~~ the transgenic plant of claim 1, ~~having an increased pathogen resistance and/or drought tolerance phenotype~~ comprising identifying a plant that has an allele in ~~its PRDT1 gene~~the nucleotide sequence that encodes the PRDT1 polypeptide that results in increased pathogen resistance and/or drought tolerance compared to plants lacking the allele and generating progeny of said identified plant, wherein the generated progeny inherit the allele and have the increased pathogen resistance phenotype.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 that employs candidate gene/QTL methodology.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 that employs TILLING methodology.

11. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence is set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

12. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 1, wherein the DNA binding domain specifically recognizes the nucleic acid sequence YAAC(G/T)G.